

Region 7

Regional Services Council

October 5, 2005

Minutes

Present: Marilyn Scales, Regional Manager
Judge Bruce Bade, Blackford County
Judge Richard Dailey, Delaware County
Judge Brian Hutchison, Jay County
Betty Lyons, DCS Director Blackford County
Chuck Osterholt, DCS Director Grant County
Chris Wagner, DCS Director Jay County
Steve Cox, DCS Director Randolph County

Regional Manager Marilyn Scales facilitated the meeting. We began with a discussion of Director James Payne's letter regarding establishment of the Regional Services Councils and their purpose. A brief description of the new agency, Department of Child Services and our Vision, Values and Mission was provided to Judges and Directors.

The first agenda item included the discussion and recommendations for membership. Judge Bade, Judge Dailey and Judge Hutchison volunteered to be the three (3) Judges. Judge Toney from Randolph County and Judge Johnson from Grant County were unable to attend the meeting. In order to establish representation from all five (5) counties, Betty Lyons, Director at Blackford County, Chuck Osterholt, Director at Grant County, and Steve Cox, Director at Randolph County agreed to represent the three (3) local office Directors. George Herman, Blackford/Grant FCM Supervisor was recommended to be a member of the Regional Services Council. A recommendation was made to select a FCM from Delaware County for the Council. The CASA representative was recommended as Deb McGriff-Tharp from Randolph County.

Marilyn Scales will contact State CASA Office for approval. Two (2) foster families were nominated. Harriet Weekly from Jay/Randolph counties and Chuck Rife from Delaware County. Both will be contacted to seek interest in serving on the Council. Judge Dailey nominated Delaware County Chief Probation Officer to serve on Council when needed for discussion regarding probation services.

We next discussed the four P's (Prevention, Preservation, Placement and Permanency) of DCS. We presented Director Payne's goal to review current services and providers and establish some consistency statewide with 5/6 core services. The Judges recommended the following services as priorities:

- 1) Counseling
 - In-Home
 - Out-of-Home
 - Family/Individual
- 2) Home Based Services
 - Homemaker
 - Family Preservation Models
- 3) Services for Both Parents and Kids Together
 - Mental Health
 - Family/Strength Based Services
- 4) Visitation When in Out-of-Home Status
- 5) Preventive Services - Probation
 - School Suspension Programs
 - Specific Adolescent Programs
- 6) Other Issues
 - Anger Management
 - Mental Health, Depression Needs
 - Domestic Violence
 - Substance Abuse for Adults and Children
 - Poverty Issues
- 7) Probation Services
 - Home Based
 - Psychological Evaluations
 - Sex Offender Programs
 - Victims and Juvenile Offenders Counseling Needs

Next meeting date: October 28, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at Blackford County Annex. Agenda will include: 1) Finalizing membership; 2) Discussion of current services in five counties; 3) Continued discussion of needed services.